



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Motorist Cautioned to be Alert for Bears Foraging near Park Roadways

As August draws to a close, bears will be actively foraging ripened berries on the trees and bushes that line Grand Teton National Park's roadways. The Moose-Wilson Road is one of the most wildlife-rich areas in the park, and motorists are advised to be especially alert for bears and other animals that may be wandering along this park road during the fall season.

Recently, a white SUV traveling southbound from the Moose Visitor Center along the Moose-Wilson Road, lightly struck a black bear as it was running across the road. The bear rolled a couple of times after being hit by the vehicle, and ran off into nearby vegetation; its injuries are unknown. This incident serves as a reminder that bears and other animals can be found alongside, and often on, the Moose-Wilson Road, as well as many of the other park roads. Motorists need to use an extra measure of caution when driving at any time of the day or night.

The Moose-Wilson Road is both narrow and lined with berry-laden trees and bushes. Bears typically search out this abundant food source in late summer and early fall. In addition, several ponds and wetlands near this road attract moose, causing them to linger near roadsides, as well as on the roadbed itself. The combination of narrow roadway and easy wildlife viewing along the Moose-Wilson Road presents a safety concern, especially when motorists are not alert, or happen to stop in the middle of the road and obstruct the flow of traffic. Drivers are advised to use pull-outs and/or a widened road shoulder for watching wildlife, and to **never park in the middle of the road**, even for a short time. To increase the safety for other motorists using the roadway, and to provide for the safety of nearby wildlife, it is imperative that drivers pull ahead and park safely off the roadway at an appropriate turnout.

Motorists are advised to slow down, stay alert and be prepared to stop suddenly whenever wildlife are encountered on either the Moose-Wilson Road or other roads throughout the park. Collisions between motor vehicles and wildlife may result in severe damage to a vehicle, serious or fatal injuries to the occupants of that vehicle, and/or death for the animal involved.

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